

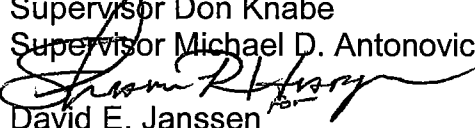


County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

February 8, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 119 (Cedillo), as introduced on January 22, 2007, would increase the scope of benefits and reimbursement rates for Drug Medi-Cal to provide access to an appropriate continuum of care for youths from 12 to 20 years of age suffering from substance abuse disorders. It would codify the existing youth treatment guidelines of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and direct the California Department of Health Services to seek Federal financial participation for these expanded services. It would require that these services be covered under Medi-Cal only if Federal financial participation is available. SB 119 is identical to County-supported SB 1288 (Cedillo) of the prior legislative session, which was vetoed by the Governor on September 29, 2006. The Governor indicated in his veto message that, although he strongly supported efforts to provide access to substance abuse treatment services for adolescents, he could not support SB 1288 because it would have substantially expanded Drug Medi-Cal services and resulted in millions of dollars of new State costs.

According to the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC), there is no organized system of care for young people and their families in need of alcohol and other drug treatment services. There also is a significant gap between treatment need and treatment capacity for adolescents. In 2002, an estimated 468,000 persons between the ages of 12 and 18 in California had an alcohol

or drug problem that warranted treatment, but only 18,965 were admitted to publicly-financed alcohol and drug treatment programs. The Medi-Cal system for adolescent substance abuse services does not allow for the level of care called for by the State's existing treatment standards.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) indicates that substance abuse problems among adolescents underlie many other problem behaviors including delinquency, violence, school truancy and drop-out, unsafe sex and teen pregnancy, and drunk driving and related traffic accidents. The Probation Department notes that SB 119 would assist in diverting at risk youth from the juvenile justice system and reducing recidivism among adolescents who have been incarcerated in County juvenile facilities. DPH and the Probation Department recommend that the County support SB 119 because it would provide additional funding to help address the unmet need for adolescent alcohol and drug treatment in California, and we concur. Consistent with prior County support for SB 1288, and County policy to support proposals for increased funding to enhance the alcohol and drug services system of care for adolescents to address the growing problems associated with adolescent alcohol and drug use, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 119.**

SB 119 is sponsored by the author and there is not yet any registered support or opposition. However, SB 1288 was supported by the California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors; California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies; California Medical Association; California Mental Health Directors Association; California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association; California School Nurses Association; California State Association of Counties; CADPAAC; Drug Policy Alliance Network; Juvenile Court Judges of California; and the Urban Counties Caucus; among others. It was opposed by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, established by the Church of Scientology. SB 119 has not yet been set for hearing.

STATUS OF LEGISLATION OF COUNTY INTEREST

Two bills, **SB 113 (Calderon)** and **AB 157 (Plescia)**, have been introduced to move the presidential primary in California from June to February. Under existing law, presidential primary elections are held on the first Tuesday in June in any year evenly divisible by the number four.

SB 113, as introduced January 22, 2007, would require that the presidential primary election be held on the first Tuesday in February in any year evenly divisible by the number four. Further, it would require that the primary not be consolidated with any statewide direct primary held in that year. If passed, this proposal would require that the next California presidential primary be held on February 5, 2008.

The author indicates that California has the largest congressional delegation in the country but because the State conducts its presidential primary in June, the presidential nominees for the major political parties are usually determined before California's voters have an opportunity to cast their ballots. Moving the primary election to February will encourage presidential candidates to campaign in California, therefore, issues affecting the State would be debated at this stage. Further, this move would encourage voter registration, interest and participation.

According to the Registrar Recorder, if the presidential primary is moved to February, the County would be charged with the responsibility of conducting two Statewide primary elections in 2008, in addition to the November 2008 General Election. A preliminary estimate of the County cost to conduct a February primary is approximately \$20 million. Additionally, the County is likely to encounter several logistical problems such as shortage of pollworkers due to the high frequency of elections, voter fatigue and preparations for compliance with the Help American Vote Act.

According to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), counties are concerned about the absence of language to reimburse counties for a stand-alone presidential primary election. Although SB 113 contains mandated Proposition 1A language, the reimbursement process takes an average of seven years and counties must budget for elections in advance. CSAC asked the Senate Appropriations Committee to include an up-front and ongoing allocation based on estimated costs before the bill is passed from the Committee.

The Senate Rules Committee voted on January 31, 2007, to suspend the rule requiring that a bill be in print for 30 days before committee hearings. The Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee met on February 7, 2007. At the hearing, a representative from the Governor's Office conveyed the Governor's support for moving the primary election date. While there was no opposition testimony, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, CSAC and the Rural County Caucus expressed concerns that focused primarily upon costs to counties. Members of the committee indicated a willingness to have the State pay the costs, but they were reluctant to place an appropriation in the bill. The measure was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

SB 113 will be the subject of a special hearing by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday, February 8, 2007.

AB 157, as introduced January 18, 2007, is a companion bill that would similarly require that the presidential primary election be held on the first Tuesday in February in any year evenly divisible by the number four. This bill has not been referred to a committee.

Given the potential cost and logistical impacts to the County, the Registrar Recorder is working with the County's advocates to ensure that potential County costs for conducting an additional election are fully reimbursed, and that these concerns are taken into account.

Senate President Announces Formation of Select Committees and Subcommittee Chairs

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata announced the following Senate Select Committees and their chairs.

- Air Quality: **Dean Florez** (D)
- Alameda Corridor: **Gloria Negrete McLeod** (D)
- Asian Pacific Islander Affairs: **Leland Yee** (D)
- Asian Pacific Rim Select: **Gloria Romero** (D)
- Bay Area Sustainable Development and Economic Progress: **Leland Yee** (D)
- Biotechnology: **Ellen Corbett** (D)
- California-European Trade: **Dick Ackerman** (R)
- California-Mexico Cooperation: **Denise Moreno Ducheny** (D)
- California's Horseracing Industry: **Ed Vincent** (D)
- California's Master Plan for Education: **Joe Simitian** (D)
- California's Wine Industry: **Patricia Wiggins** (D)
- Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation: **Joe Simitian** (D)
- College and University Admission Outreach: **Alex Padilla** (D)
- Colorado River: **Denise Moreno Ducheny** (D)
- Defense and Aerospace Industry: **Roy Ashburn** (R)
- Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness: **Ellen Corbett** (D)
- Emerging Technologies and Economic Competitiveness: **Elaine Alquist** (D)
- Food-borne Illness: **Dean Florez** (D)
- Health Insurance Crisis in CA: **Sheila Kuehl** (D)
- High School Retention: **Darrell Steinberg** (D)
- Immigration and the Economy: **Gil Cedillo** (D)
- Integrity of Elections: **Jenny Oropeza** (D)
- International Business Trade: **Ron Calderon** (D)
- Mobile and Manufactured Homes: **Lou Correa** (D)
- Obesity and Diabetes: **Alex Padilla** (D)
- Orange County Infrastructure and Technology: **Lou Correa** (D)
- Oversight of UC Energy Labs: **Denise Moreno Ducheny** (D)
- Public Health and the Environment: **Jenny Oropeza** (D)
- Perchlorate Contamination: **Gloria Negrete-McLeod** (D)

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- Privacy: **Joe Simitian** (D)
- School Safety: **Sheila Kuehl** (D)
- Schools and Community: **Tom Torlakson** (D)
- Urban School Governance: **Gloria Romero** (D)
- Urban Economies: **Gloria Romero** (D)

Senator Perata also announced the following Senate Subcommittees and their chairs.

- Administration of Justice (Judiciary): **Ellen Corbett** (D)
- Aging and Long-Term Care (Health): **Elaine Alquist** (D)
- Alternative Energy (Energy, Utilities & Communications): **Christine Kehoe** (D)
- Delta Resources (Natural Resources): **Mike Machado** (D)
- Fiscal Oversight and Bonded Indebtedness (Appropriations): **Tom Torlakson** (D)
- Higher Education (Education): **Jack Scott** (D)
- Professional Sports and Entertainment (Business, Professions, and Economic Development): **Mark Ridley-Thomas** (D)
- Ports and Goods Movement (Transportation and Housing): **Alan Lowenthal** (D)
- Toxic Materials (Environmental Quality): **Alan Lowenthal** (D)

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:IGR:hg

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants